

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/822,216

Examiner

Eric M. Blount

Applicant(s)

UEMINAMI ET AL.

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/09/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 04092004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Drawings submitted by applicants on August 24, 2004 are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-16 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While it was well known in the art at the time of the invention by the applicants for vehicle monitoring systems to include cameras and display screens, the prior art of record fails to sufficiently describe or suggest a vehicle monitoring system wherein a monitor screen is operated as a function of the speed of the vehicle.

- a. In independent **claim 1**, the monitor screen is automatically turned on when a deceleration to a first speed or less occurs. There are two instances when the screen is automatically turned off: If the vehicle is accelerated to a second speed or more that is lower than the first speed or if the vehicle is accelerated to a third speed or more that is higher than the first speed.

- b. As for independent **claim 8**, the monitor screen is automatically turned on when a deceleration to a first speed or less occurs. If the vehicle is accelerated to a second speed or more that is lower than the first speed the monitor screen is turned off. As a further limitation, the monitor screened is turned on again if the vehicle is decelerated to a speed that is lower than the second speed after the monitor screen had been automatically turned off.

- c. In independent **claim 12**, the monitor screen is automatically turned on when a deceleration to a first speed or less occurs. There are two instances

when the screen is automatically turned off: If the vehicle is accelerated from a second speed or more that is lower than the first speed or when the vehicle is accelerated to a third speed or more that is higher than the first speed before the speed reaches the second speed or less after the screen had been turned on by decelerating to a first speed or less.

d. In independent **claim 14**, the monitor screen is automatically turned on when a deceleration to a first speed or less occurs. There are two instances when the screen is automatically turned off: If the vehicle is accelerated to a second speed or more that is lower than the first speed or a running speed of the vehicle which is between the first and fourth speed that is lower than the second speed is kept for a predetermined time period while the monitor screen is turned on.

These along with further limitations set forth by the claims render the application allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Though not used to make an art rejection all cited references

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disclose vehicle monitoring systems that were known at the time of the invention by the applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount
Examiner
Art Unit 2636


JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600